**Amendments to the Claims:**

Claims 1-12 (Cancelled)

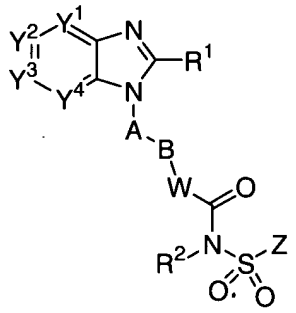
Claims 13-25 (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim ~~13~~28, wherein the disorder or condition is selected from:

pain, fever or inflammation associated with rheumatic fever, influenza or other viral infections, common cold, low back and neck pain, skeletal pain, post-partum pain, dysmenorrhea, headache, migraine, toothache, sprains and strains, myositis, neuralgia, fibromyalgia, synovitis, arthritis, including rheumatoid arthritis, degenerative joint diseases, osteoarthritis, gout and ankylosing sspondylitis, bursitits, burns including radiation and corrosive chemical injuries, sunburns, pain following surgical and dental procedures or bone fracture, immune and autoimmune diseases such as systemic lupus erythematosus; AIDS(acquired immuno deficiency syndrome), gastrointestinal cancers such as colon cancer ; cellular neoplastic transformations or metastic tumor growth; ~~Diabetic retinopathy, tumor angiogenesis; prostanoid-induced smooth muscle contraction associated with dysmenorrhea, premature labor,~~ allergic rhinitis, atopic dermatitis, asthma or eosinophil related disorders, ~~Hyperimmunoglobulinaemia, Castleman's disease, myeloma;~~ Alzheimer's disease, sleep disorders, ~~endocrine disturbance; glaucoma;~~ bone loss; and osteoporosis; promotion of bone formation; ~~Paget's disease: cytoprotection in peptic ulcers, gastritis, regional enteritis, ulcerative colitis, diverticulitis or other gastrointestinal lesions; GI bleeding and patients undergoing chemotherapy; coagulation disorders selected from hypoprothrombinemia, haemophilia and other bleeding problems;~~ kidney disease; ~~thrombosis; occlusive vascular disease; presurgery; and anti-coagulation~~.

27. (Previously presented) A method according to Claim 26, wherein the disorder or condition is selected from pain, inflammation, an inflammation associated disorder, osteoarthritis, and rheumatoid arthritis.

28. (New) A method for the treatment of a disorder or condition mediated by an EP4 receptor in a mammalian subject including a human, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of the following formula:



(I)

or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein

one of $Y^1$, $Y^2$, $Y^3$ and $Y^4$ is N and the others are independently selected from CH and C(L) ;

$R^1$ is H, $C_{1-8}$ alkyl, $C_{2-8}$ alkenyl, $C_{2-8}$ alkynyl, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, $C_{1-8}$ alkoxy, halo-substituted $C_{1-8}$ alkoxy, $C_{1-8}$ alkyl-S(O)m-, $Q^1$-, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, amino, mono- or di-($C_{1-8}$ alkyl)amino, $C_{1-4}$alkyl-C(=O)-N($R^3$)- or $C_{1-4}$alkyl-S(O)m-N($R^3$)-, wherein said $C_{1-8}$ alkyl, $C_{2-8}$ alkenyl and $C_{2-8}$ alkynyl are optionally substituted with halo, $C_{1-3}$ alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy-, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-S(O)m-, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl-, cyano, indanyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphtyl, 1,2-dihydronaphtyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, $Q^1$-, $Q^1$-C(=O)-, $Q^1$-O-, $Q^1$-S(O)m-, $Q^1$-$C_{1-4}$alkyl-O-, $Q^1$-$C_{1-4}$alkyl-S(O)m-, $Q^1$-$C_{1-4}$alkyl-C(O)-N($R^3$)-, $Q^1$-$C_{1-4}$alkyl-N($R^3$)- or $C_{1-4}$alkyl-C(O)-N($R^3$)-;

$Q^1$ is a 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 4 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, and is optionally substituted with halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, hydroxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di-($C_{1-4}$alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy-$C_{1-4}$alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, $C_{1-4}$alkylC(=O)-, HO(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$alkyl-O(O=)C-, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonylamino, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$- or $NH_2(HN=)C$-;

A is a 5-6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, wherein said 5-6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with up to 3 substituents selected from halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, hydroxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, $C_{1-4}$alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di-($C_{1-4}$ alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy-$C_{1-4}$alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, acetyl, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, HO(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$alkyl-O(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonylamino, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$- and $NH_2(HN=)C$-;

B is halo-substituted $C_{1-6}$ alkylene, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkylene, $C_{2-6}$ alkenylene, $C_{2-6}$ alkynylene, -O-$C_{1-5}$ alkylene, $C_{1-2}$ alkylene-O-$C_{1-2}$ alkylene or $C_{1-6}$ alkylene optionally substituted with an oxo group or $C_{1-3}$ alkyl;

W is NH, N-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, O, S, N-$OR^5$ or a covalent bond;

$R^2$ is H, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, OH or $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy;

Z is a 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, wherein said 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkenyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkynyl, hydroxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di-($C_{1-4}$ alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy-$C_{1-4}$alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, $C_{1-4}$alkylC(=O)-,

$R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$-, HO(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$alkyl-O(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonylamino, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, $NH_2(HN=)C$-, $Q^2$-S(O)m-, $Q^2$-O-, $Q^2$-$N(R^3)$- or $Q^2$- ;

L is halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, hydroxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di-($C_{1-4}$ alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy-$C_{1-4}$alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, $C_{1-4}$alkylC(=O)-, HO(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$alkyl-O(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonylamino, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$-, $NH_2(HN=)C$-, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, $R^3N(R^4)S(O)m$-, $Q^2$-, $Q^2$-C(=O)-, $Q^2$-O-, $Q^2$-$C_{1-4}$alkyl-O-, or two adjacent L groups are optionally joined together to form an alkylene chain having 3 or 4 members in which one or two (non-adjacent) carbon atoms are optionally replaced by oxygen atoms;

m is 0, 1 or 2;

$R^3$ and $R^4$ are independently selected from H and $C_{1-4}$ alkyl ;

$R^5$ is H, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-(O=)C- or $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-O-(O=)C- ; and

$Q^2$ is a 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring, or a 5-12 membered tricyclic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, wherein said 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{2-4}$ alkenyl, $C_{2-4}$ alkynyl, hydroxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, halo-substituted $C1_{1-4}$ alkoxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di-($C_{1-4}$ alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy-$C_{1-4}$alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, $C_{1-4}$alkyl- (O=)C-, $R^3(R^4)C(=O)N$-, HO(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-O(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonylamino, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-C(=O)NH- or $NH_2(HN=)C$-.

29. (New) A method according to Claim 28, wherein

one of $Y^1$, $Y^2$, $Y^3$, and $Y^4$ is N and the others are independently selected from CH and C(L);

$R^1$ is H, $C_{1-8}$ alkyl, $C_{2-8}$ alkenyl, $C_{2-8}$ alkynyl, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, $C_{1-8}$ alkoxy, halo-substituted $C_{1-8}$ alkoxy, $C_{1-8}$ alkyl-S(O)m-, $Q^1$-, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, amino, mono- or di-($C_{1-8}$ alkyl)amino, $C_{1-4}$alkyl-C(=O)-N($R^3$)- or $C_{1-4}$alkyl-S(O)m-N($R^3$)-, wherein said $C_{1-8}$ alkyl, $C_{2-8}$ alkenyl and $C_{2-8}$ alkynyl are optionally substituted with halo, $C_{1-3}$ alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy-, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-S(O)m-, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl-, cyano, indanyl, 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphtyl, 1,2-dihydronaphtyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, $Q^1$-, $Q^1$-C(=O)-, $Q^1$-O-, $Q^1$-S(O)m-, $Q^1$-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl-O-, $Q^1$-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl-S(O)m-, $Q^1$-$C_{1-4}$alkyl-C(=O)-N($R^3$)-, or $C_{1-4}$alkyl-C(=O)-N($R^3$)-;

$Q^1$ is a 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 4 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, and is optionally substituted with halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkyl , hydroxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkylthio, nitro, amino, mono- or di-($C_{1-4}$ alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy-$C_{1-4}$alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylC(=O)-, HO(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-O(O)C-, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonylamino, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$- or $NH_2(HN=)C$-;

A is a 5-6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 2 heteroatoms selected from O, N, and S, wherein said 5-6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with up to 2 substituents selected from halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, hydroxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy and halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy;

B is $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkylene or $C_{1-6}$ alkylene optionally substituted with an oxo group or $C_{1-3}$ alkyl;

W is NH, N-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, O or N-OH;

$R^2$ is H or $C_{1-4}$ alkyl;

Z is a 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from, N and S, wherein said 5-12 membered monocyclic or

bicyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkenyl, hydroxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, nitro, amino, cyano, HO-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylC(=O)-, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$-, HO(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-O(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonylamino, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-C(=O)NH-, $Q^2$-S(O)m-, $Q^2$-O-, $Q^2$-N($R^3$)- or $Q^2$-;

L is halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkyl , hydroxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, mono- or di-($C_{1-4}$ alkyl)amino, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, cyano, HO-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylC(=O)-, HO(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-O(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonylamino, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$-, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, $R^3N(R^4)S(O)m$-, $Q^2$-, $Q^2$-C(=O)-, $Q^2$-O-, $Q^2$-$C_{1-4}$alkyl-O-, or two adjacent L groups are optionally joined together to form an alkylene chain having 3 or 4 members in which one or two (non-adjacent) carbon atoms are optionally replaced by oxygen atoms;

m is 0 or 2;

$R^3$ and $R^4$ are independently selected from H and $C_{1-4}$ alkyl; and

$Q^2$ is a 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring, or a 8-12 membered tricyclic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from O, N and S, wherein said 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{2-4}$ alkenyl, $C_{2-4}$ alkynyl, hydroxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkylthio, mono- or di-($C_{1-4}$ alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-(O=)C-, $R^3(R^4)C(=O)N$-, HO(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-O(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonylamino, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl or $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-C(=O)NH-.

30. (New) A method according to Claim 29, wherein

one of $Y^1$, $Y^2$, $Y^3$, and $Y^4$ is N and the others are independently selected from CH and C(L);

$R^1$ is H, $C_{1-8}$ alkyl, $C_{2-8}$ alkenyl, $C_{2-8}$ alkynyl, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, $Q^1$-, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, amino, mono- or di-($C_{1-8}$ alkyl)amino, wherein said $C_{1-8}$ alkyl is optionally substituted with halo, $C_{1-3}$ alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy-, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-S(O)m-, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl-, cyano, indanyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, $Q^1$-, $Q^1$-C(O)-, $Q^1$-O-, $Q^1$-S-, $Q^1$-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl-O-, or $C_{1-4}$alkyl-C(O)-N($R^3$)-;

$Q^1$ is a 5-12 membered monocyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 4 heteroatoms selected from N and S, and is optionally substituted with halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonyl and $C_{1-4}$ alkylC(=O)-;

A is 5-6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring optionally substituted with halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl or $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy;

B is $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkylene or $C_{1-6}$ alkylene optionally substituted with an oxo group or $C_{1-3}$ alkyl;

W is NH, N-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, O or N-OH;

$R^2$ is H or $C_{1-4}$ alkyl;

Z is 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from, N and S, wherein said 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{2-4}$ alkenyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, nitro, amino, cyano, $R^3$C(=O)N($R^4$)-, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-O(O=)C-, $Q^2$- S(O)m-, $Q^2$-O-, $Q^2$-N($R^3$)- or $Q^2$-;

L is halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkyl , hydroxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, mono- or di-($C_{1-4}$ alkyl)amino, cyano, HO-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylC(=O)-, HO(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-O(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonylamino, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, $R^3$C(=O)N($R^4$)-, $R^3$N($R^4$)C(=O)-, $R^3$N($R^4$)S(O)m-, $Q^2$-, $Q^2$-C(=O)-, $Q^2$-O-, $Q^2$-$C_{1-4}$alkyl-O-, or two adjacent L groups are optionally joined together to form an alkylene chain having 3 or 4

members in which one or two (non-adjacent) carbon atoms are optionally replaced by oxygen atoms;

m is 0 or 2;

$R^3$ and $R^4$ are independently selected from H and $C_{1-4}$ alkyl; and

$Q^2$ is a 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring, or a 8-12 membered tricyclic ring containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from N and S, wherein said 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo.

31. (New) A method according to Claim 30, wherein

one of $Y^1$, $Y^2$, $Y^3$ and $Y^4$ is N and the others are independently selected from CH and C(L);

$R^1$ is H, $C_{1-8}$ alkyl, $C_{2-8}$ alkenyl, $C_{2-8}$ alkynyl or $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, wherein said $C_{1-8}$ alkyl is optionally substituted with halo, $C_{1-3}$ alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy-, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-S(O)m-, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl-, cyano, indanyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, $Q^1$-, $Q^1$-C(=O)-, $Q^1$-O-, $Q^1$-S-, $Q^1$-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl-O-, or $C_{1-4}$alkyl-C(O)-N($R^3$)-;

$Q^1$ is a 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 4 heteroatoms selected from N and S;

A is 5-6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring system optionally substituted with halo or $C_{1-4}$ alkyl;

B is $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkylene or $C_{1-6}$ alkylene optionally substituted with an oxo group or $C_{1-3}$ alkyl;

W is NH, N-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, O or N-OH;

$R^2$ is H or $C_{1-4}$ alkyl;

Z is 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from N and S, wherein said 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halo-

substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{2-4}$ alkenyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, nitro, amino, cyano, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$-, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-O(O=)C-, $Q^2$-S(O)m-, $Q^2$-O-, $Q^2$-N($R^3$)- or $Q^2$-;

L is halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkyl , hydroxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, cyano, HO-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, $C_{1-4}$ alkylC(=O), HO(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl-O(O=)C-, $C_{1-4}$ alkylsulfonylamino, $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, $R^3C(=O)NR^4$-, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, $R^3N(R^4)S(O)m$-, $Q^2$-, $Q^2$-C(=O)-, $Q^2$-O-, $Q^2$-$C_{1-4}$alkyl-O-, or two adjacent L groups are optionally joined together to form an alkylene chain having 3 or 4 members in which one or two (non-adjacent) carbon atoms are optionally replaced by oxygen atoms;

m is 0 or 2;

$R^3$ and $R^4$ are independently selected from H and $C_{1-4}$ alkyl; and

$Q^2$ is 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring or a 8-12 membered tricyclic ring optionally containing 1 sulfur atom wherein said 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo.

32. (New) A method according to Claim 31, wherein

one of $Y^1$, $Y^2$, $Y^3$ and $Y^4$ is N and the others are independently selected from CH and C(L);

$R^1$ is $C_{1-5}$ alkyl or $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, wherein said $C_{1-5}$ alkyl is optionally substituted with $C_{1-3}$ alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, pyrrolidinyl, piperidyl, oxopyrrolidinyl, oxopiperidyl, $Q^1$-, or $C_{1-4}$alkyl-C(O)-N(H)-;

$Q^1$ is 5-12 membered monocyclic aromatic ring system optionally containing up to 2 heteroatoms selected from N and S,

A is 5-6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring system;

B is $C_{1-3}$ alkylene optionally substituted with $C_{1-3}$ alkyl;

W is NH, N-$C_{1-2}$ alkyl or O;

$R^2$ is H;

Z is 5-12 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from N and S, wherein said 5-12 membered monocyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, nitro, $R^3C(=O)N(R^4)$- or $Q^2$-;

L is halo, $C_{1-4}$ alkyl, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkyl , hydroxy, $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, halo-substituted $C_{1-4}$ alkoxy, cyano, HO-$C_{1-4}$ alkyl, acetyl, $R^3N(R^4)C(=O)$-, $R^3N(R^4)S(O)m$-, $Q^2$-, $Q^2$-C(=O)-, or two adjacent L groups are joined together to form a methylenedioxy group;

$R^3$ and $R^4$ are independently selected from H and $C_{1-4}$ alkyl; and

$Q^2$ is 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring system.

33. (New) A method according to Claim 32, wherein

one of $Y^1$, $Y^2$, $Y^3$ and $Y^4$ is N and the others are independently selected from CH and C(L);

$R^1$ is $C_{1-5}$ alkyl optionally substituted with $C_{1-3}$ alkyl, hydroxy, oxo, 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring, wherein said 5 or 6 membered monocyclic aromatic ring is containing 1 or 2 heteroatoms selected from N and S, or $C_{1-4}$alkyl-C(O)-N($R^3$)-;

A is phenyl;

B is $C_{1-2}$ alkylene optionally substituted with methyl;

W is NH, N-$CH_3$ or O;

$R^2$ is H;

Z is 5-10 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aromatic ring optionally containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from N and S, wherein said 5-10 membered monocyclic aromatic ring is optionally substituted with chloro, bromo, methyl, nitro, $CH_3C(=O)NH$-, tBuC(=O)NH- or phenyl; and

L is chloro, methyl, trifuluoromethyl, hydroxy, methoxy, cyano, acetyl, $-C(=O)NH_2$, trifuluoromethyloxy, methanesulfonyl, or 1-hydroxy-1-methyl-ethyl, or two adjacent L groups are joined together to form a methylenedioxy group.

34. (New) A method according to Claim 33, wherein

one of $Y^1$, $Y^2$, $Y^3$ and $Y^4$ is N and the others are independently selected from CH and C(L);

$R^1$ is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, neopentyl, thiazolylethyl methylamino, dimethylamino, pyrrolidinyl, pyridyl, or 1-acetylamino-1-methylethyl;

A is phenyl;

B is ethylene or propylene;

W is NH, N-$CH_3$ or O;

$R^2$ is H;

Z is phenyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, thienyl, naphthyl or benzothienyl, said phenyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl and thienyl being optionally substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from chloro, bromo, methyl, acetylamino, pivaloylamino, nitro and phenyl; and

L is chloro, methyl, trifuluoromethyl, hydroxy, methoxy, cyano, acetyl, $-C(=O)NH_2$, trifuluoromethyloxy, methanesulfonyl, or 1-hydroxy-1-methyl-ethyl, or two adjacent L groups are joined together to form a methylenedioxy group.

35. (New) A method according to Claim 34, wherein

$Y^1$, $Y^2$, $Y^3$ and $Y^4$ are selected from the group consisting of

a) $Y^1$ and $Y^3$ are C(L), $Y^2$ is CH and $Y^4$ is N;

b) $Y^1$ is CH, $Y^2$ and $Y^3$ are C(L) and $Y^4$ is N;

c) $Y^1$, $Y^2$ and $Y^3$ are C(L) and $Y^4$ is N;

d) $Y^1$ and $Y^3$ are C(L), $Y^2$ is N and $Y^4$ is CH;

e) $Y^1$ and $Y^2$ are CH, $Y^3$ is C(L) and $Y^4$ is N;

f) $Y^1$ and $Y^3$ are CH, $Y^2$ is C(L) and $Y^4$ is N;

g) $Y^1$ and $Y^2$ are C(L), $Y^3$ is CH and $Y^4$ is N;

h) $Y^1$ and $Y^2$ are C(L), $Y^3$ is N and $Y^4$ is CH;

i) $Y^1$ is C(L), $Y^2$ and $Y^3$ are CH, and $Y^4$ is N; and

j) $Y^2$ is C(L), $Y^1$ and $Y^3$ are CH, and $Y^4$ is N;

$R^1$ is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, neopentyl, thiazolylethyl methylamino, dimethylamino, pyrrolidinyl, pyridyl, or 1-acetylamino-1-methylethyl;

A is phenyl;

B is ethylene or propylene;

W is NH, N-$CH_3$ or O;

$R^2$ is H;

Z is phenyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, thienyl, naphthyl or benzothienyl, said phenyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl and thienyl being optionally substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from chloro, bromo, methyl, acetylamino, pivaloylamino, nitro and phenyl; and

L is chloro, methyl, trifuluoromethyl, hydroxy, methoxy, cyano, acetyl, $-C(=O)NH_2$, trifuluoromethyloxy, methanesulfonyl, or 1-hydroxy-1-methyl-ethyl, or two adjacent L groups are joined together to form a methylenedioxy group.

36. (New) A method according to Claim 35, wherein

$Y^1$, $Y^2$, $Y^3$ and $Y^4$ are selected from the group consisting of

a) $Y^1$ and $Y^3$ are C(L), $Y^2$ is CH and $Y^4$ is N;

b) $Y^1$ is CH, $Y^2$ and $Y^3$ are C(L) and $Y^4$ is N;

c) $Y^1$, $Y^2$ and $Y^3$ are C(L) and $Y^4$ is N; and

d) $Y^1$ and $Y^3$ are C(L), $Y^2$ is N and $Y^4$ is CH;

$R^1$ is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, neopentyl, thiazolylethyl methylamino, dimethylamino, pyrrolidinyl, pyridyl, or 1-acetylamino-1-methylethyl;

A is phenyl;

B is ethylene or propylene;

W is NH, N-$CH_3$ or O;

$R^2$ is H;

Z is phenyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, thienyl, naphthyl or benzothienyl, said phenyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl and thienyl being optionally substituted

with one to three substituents independently selected from chloro, bromo, methyl, acetylamino, pivaloylamino, nitro and phenyl; and

L is chloro, methyl, trifuluoromethyl, hydroxy, methoxy, cyano, acetyl, $-C(=O)NH_2$, trifuluoromethyloxy, methanesulfonyl, or 1-hydroxy-1-methyl-ethyl, or two adjacent L groups are joined together to form a methylenedioxy group.

37. (New) A method according to Claim 28 wherein the compound is selected from

3-(4-{2-[({[(5-chloro-1,3-dimethyl-1h-pyrazol-4-yl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl} phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(2,4-dimethyl-1,3-thiazol-5-yl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

N-[5-({[({2-[4-(2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]ethyl}amino)carbonyl]amino}sulfonyl)-1,3,4-thiadiazol-2-yl]acetamide;

2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[methyl({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]propyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-[4-(2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]-1-methylethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-propyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-isopropyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-butyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-isobutyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-neopentyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-[2-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)ethyl]-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-{4-[2-({[(4-biphenylsulfonyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)ethyl]phenyl}-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-{4-[2-({[(1-naphthylsulfonyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)ethyl]phenyl}-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-{4-[2-({[(2-naphthylsulfonyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)ethyl]phenyl}-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(2-thienyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(5-chloro-2-thienyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(4,5-dichloro-2-thienyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-{4-[2-({[(1-benzothien-2-ylsulfonyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)ethyl]phenyl}-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(2-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-5,6-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine;

5,6-dichloro-2-ethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine;

5-chloro-2-ethyl-7-methyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

6-cyano-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-4,6-dimethyl-1-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-3-{4-[2-({[({3-[hydroxy(oxido)amino]phenyl}sulfonyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)ethyl]phenyl}-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

n-[4-({[({2-[4-(2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]ethyl}amino)carbonyl]amino}sulfonyl)phenyl]-2,2-dimethylpropanamide;

3-(4-{2-[({[(2-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(3-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(5-chloro-2-thienyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(5-bromo-2-thienyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(2-bromophenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-{4-[2-({[({4-chloro-3-nitrophenyl}sulfonyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)ethyl]phenyl}-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-[4-(2-ethyl-4,6-dimethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl)phenyl]ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{4-[5,7-dimethyl-2-(methylamino)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

*N*-{[(2-{4-[5,7-dimethyl-2-(methylamino)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}ethyl)amino]carbonyl}-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

*N*-[({2-[4-(2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]ethyl}amino)carbonyl]-2-thiophenesulfonamide;

2-[4-(4,6-dimethyl-2-phenyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl)phenyl]ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-[4-(2-butyl-4,6-dimethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl)phenyl]ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{4-[4,6-dimethyl-2-(3-phenylpropyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

*N*-{[(2-{4-[5,7-dimethyl-2-(1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}ethyl)amino]carbonyl}-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

2-{4-[2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-4,6-dimethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate; and

salts thereof.

38. (New) A method according to Claim 28 wherein the compound is selected from

2-[4-(2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]-1-methylethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-[2-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)ethyl]-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(2-thienyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

3-(4-{2-[({[(2-chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridine;

2-ethyl-5,6-dimethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl}phenyl)-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine;

5,6-dichloro-2-ethyl-3-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino]ethyl} phenyl)-3H-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine;

2-ethyl-4,6-dimethyl-1-(4-{2-[({[(4-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carbonyl)amino] ethyl}phenyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridine;

2-[4-(2-ethyl-4,6-dimethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl)phenyl]ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{4-[5,7-dimethyl-2-(methylamino)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

*N*-{[(2-{4-[5,7-dimethyl-2-(methylamino)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}ethyl)amino]carbonyl}-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

*N*-[({2-[4-(2-ethyl-5,7-dimethyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl)phenyl]ethyl}amino)carbonyl]-2-thiophenesulfonamide;

2-[4-(4,6-dimethyl-2-phenyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl)phenyl]ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-[4-(2-butyl-4,6-dimethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl)phenyl]ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

2-{4-[4,6-dimethyl-2-(3-phenylpropyl)-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate;

*N*-{[(2-{4-[5,7-dimethyl-2-(1*H*-pyrazol-3-yl)-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}ethyl)amino]carbonyl}-4-methylbenzenesulfonamide;

2-{4-[2-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-4,6-dimethyl-1*H*-imidazo[4,5-*c*]pyridin-1-yl]phenyl}ethyl (4-methylphenyl)sulfonylcarbamate; and

salts thereof.

39. (New) A method according to claim 28 wherein the compound is

2-ethyl-4,6-dimethyl-1-(4-{2-[({[(4-methyphenyl)sulfonyl]amino}carboxyl) amino]ethyl}phenyl)-1H-imidazo[4,5-C}pyridine.